

opening up and expanding markets all over the world. A new GATT agreement, we're working hard to get one, will make the world trading system come to grips with the damaging tariffs and export subsidies in agriculture. And by tearing down economic barriers with Mexico and Canada, a new North American free trade agreement can lift us to new heights of prosperity. And make no mistake about this: A sound free trade agreement will mean more American jobs, not less, more American jobs.

Second, let free choice and free markets reform this health care system of ours. This week I'm going to ask for a new credit to help those without health insurance, employed or not, to buy such coverage. My plan will assure that both American workers and the unemployed will have access to basic health insurance even if they change jobs or develop serious health problems. We can't improve health care by threatening the health of job-intensive businesses. The last thing we want is for companies to cut costs by cutting workers. And I am wholeheartedly opposed, as I believe you are, to schemes that cost jobs by mandating benefits that an employer must pay.

And thirdly, let's strengthen the family, the cornerstone of the American dream. Let's ease the burden of child-rearing. The personal tax exemption has not kept up with inflation. I'm asking Congress, immediately, to increase the exemption for each child by \$500. It's a significant move in the right direction, and for our kids' sake, we must do no less.

Look at my economic proposals and you

will find straightforward, plain solutions to our problems. Some may complain that they lack the flash of an expensive new program or that they don't have quite the right political ring for this political year. But I'm not seeking spending for spending's sake. I don't want a fancy title on a bill that will shoot interest rates right up through the roof. I want results. My plan is sound, and it will work.

If you hear people in Congress gripe that they can't get the job done by March 20th, remind them we won the Gulf war in 44 days. Surely Congress can pass my urgent domestic program in 52 days. Remember, Congress can act with lightning speed when it wants to. So, accept no excuses. Accept no delays. And accept no substitutes.

Please don't leave this message behind when you leave this convention hall. Take it home to your families, to your customers, to your neighbors. From February 8th till February 17th, your Congressmen will be home for the President's Day recess. That's a great time for you to go to their hometown offices and tell them to meet the deadline and to pass this plan. With an effort like this, I know we'll get their attention, and we'll get America moving again.

Thank you very, very much for this reception. And may God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

*Note: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. at the Orange County Convention/Civic Center. In his remarks, he referred to Tom Zaucha, president of the National Grocers Association.*

## Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Legislation on Access to Justice

February 4, 1992

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit today for your immediate consideration and enactment the "Access to Justice Act of 1992". The purpose of this proposal is to reduce the tremendous growth in civil litigation that has burdened the American court system and

imposed high costs on our citizens, small businesses, industries, professionals, and government at all levels.

A thorough study of the current civil justice system has been conducted by a special working group, chaired by the Solicitor General, Kenneth W. Starr. The working

group's recommendations, which were unanimously accepted by my Council on Competitiveness, are reflected in the bill. The legislation seeks to reduce wasteful and counterproductive litigation practices by encouraging voluntary dispute resolution, the improved use of litigation resources, and, where appropriate, modified, market-based fee arrangements. Additional reforms would permit the judicial system to operate more effectively.

The Access to Justice Act would accomplish reforms in significant areas of litigation:

- a prerequisite for Federal jurisdiction over certain types of lawsuits (the amount in controversy requirement) would be redefined to exclude vague, subjective claims;
- prevailing parties could be entitled to award of attorney's fees in certain lawsuits brought in Federal court;
- the Equal Access to Justice Act would be amended to clarify and limit litigation over the amount of attorney's fees;
- innovative "multi-door courthouses" would be established to encourage utilization of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;
- award of reasonable attorney's fees in disputes involving the United States would be permitted in appropriate instances;
- prior notice would be required, subject to reasonable limits, as a prerequisite to bringing suit in any United States District Court;
- flexible assignment of district court judges would be authorized;
- immunity of State judicial officers would be clarified and protected;
- the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act would be amended to encourage resolution of claims administratively; and
- improvements in case management in Federal courts would be effected.

I believe this proposed legislation would greatly reduce the burden of excessive, needless litigation while protecting and enhancing every American's ability to vindicate legal rights through our legal system. I recommend prompt and favorable consideration of the enclosed bill.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,  
February 4, 1992.

## Presidential Determination No. 92-13—Memorandum on Emergency Funding for the Organization of American States Mission to Haiti

February 4, 1992

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Emergency Funding for OAS  
Mission to Haiti

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish assistance to the Organization of American States (OAS) for its activities in Haiti notwithstanding section 513 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1991 (Public Law 101-513) and any other provision of law within the scope of section 614, and

authorize the furnishing of up to \$2 million of funds made available to carry out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for that purpose.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

GEORGE BUSH

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:23 p.m., February 13, 1992]